AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

RESTRICTED
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
745h.00/4-853
XR 845h.00

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMCONGEN, Lagos, Nigeria 225
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

April 8, 1953
DATE

REF :

NEA
1953 APR 15 AM 10 02

15 For Dept. Use Only hm	ACTION NEA	DEPT.
	REC'D APR 14	INFO REP EUR OLI E IBS IFI UNA
		OTHER COMM FRB TAR TR

SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - March 23 - April 4, 1953

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR DATE 7/16/82
REVIEWED BY
RDS OTHER RDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH
ENDOR EXISTING MARK
DECLASSIFIED RELEASED
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

POLITICAL

House of Representatives Adjourns After Critical Session

Nigeria's central House of Representatives adjourned its Budget Session April 1, having approved without significant change the Government budget for coming fiscal year and having seen almost half its membership walk out on March 31st and again on April 1st.

Highlight this House session was walkout NCNC and Action Group members and resignation from Council of Ministers by four ministers. (Congen unclassified telegrams number 128 of April 1, and 130 of April 2). Resignations and walkouts were result motion Action Group's Tony ENAHORO that House "accepts as primary political objective attainment of self-government for Nigeria in 1946." Hot debate on motion ensued, Malam AHMADU (Sardauna of Sokoto) proposed amendment to read "...attainment of self-government for Nigeria as soon as practicable". Northern motion to adjourn debate original motion and amendment precipitated walkouts. Absolute opposition establishment target date for self-government by North well-known beforehand and advice against showdown this time by less radical elements Action Group ignored by Enahoro and other extreme nationalists. Members from East and West in debate never acknowledged or showed understanding North position which not opposed self-government, but only opposes setting of target date they consider premature. All press and other attacks assume North against self-government, thus making compromise of issue even more difficult. 1956 date has long been cry of East and West politicians in appeals for public support their parties; such promises almost forced them put proposal forward at this time. Action Group leader Obafemi AWOLOWO admitted on floor of House that Northern vote plus dissident ex-NCNCers from East would defeat motion. Walkout followed speech by NCNC stalwart Kingsley MBADIWE filled with references American spirit of '76 and quotation from Patrick Henry in re liberty. Oni of Ife (Central Minister without Portfolio) announced resignation morning 31st,

three

RWRoss:hz
REPORTER

RESTRICTED

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

745H.00/4-853

LWC

FILED
JUN 8 1953

DC/R 5

This Document Must Be Returned To

three AG and NCNC ministers (AKINTOLA, THOMAS, PREST) later in day. Dr. ENDELEY, minister from Cameroons and nominal NCNCer, remained in cabinet, claiming "neutrality."

Compromise enabling reconstitution full central cabinet and normal August General Session of House in August seen as extremely difficult. Leaders in efforts compromise are central ministers ARIKPO, NWAPA and NJOKU--all expelled from NCNC last November and all from East. Arikpo feels compromise forced by less radical members all regions may be possible.

Western and Northern leaders have all stated unified Nigeria difficult attain and not absolutely necessary. Observers concerned over evidence consideration of breakup of present federal Nigeria. Many feel some looser form of federation may be forced by obvious deep schism of North and South.

House earlier approved motion praying that Governor ask H.M. Government for Order-in-Council providing for dissolution any regional legislature upon request by Regional Executive Council via Lieutenant-Governors. Aimed at solving problem left by NCNC wrangle in Eastern House of Assembly and quicker solution any future similar problems. Nnamdi AZIKIWE and other old-line NCNCers opposed motion violently and threatened "fight to death" if necessary to save Eastern [illegible] use from any such action. Motion proposed by Northern Member [illegible]am Ibrahim IMAM and supported by North and few East-West members. Mbadiwe and some NCNC members walked out before vote taken.

A one-year tax upon sales of produce to Marketing Boards passed House over opposition by East. Tax on all produce sold will be paid by seller. Eastern Region temporarily exempted payment tax by Financial Secretary's motion saying tax not to be levied unless regional legislature have requested such tax; only West and North had done so. Many in opposition wanted Marketing Boards pay tax ra[illegible]r than seller. This typical Nigerian attitude, "let Government pay the bill."

Public Relations Department, heavily attacked in House last year, got boquuets for recent reorganization and its budget approved intact. NCNC members since claim credit discontinuance publication Nigeria Review, weekly PRD paper as big victory. Discontinuance actually planned many months ago due adequate outlet PRD info in established private press.

Department of Commerce and Industries budget approved despite NCNC charges of its conspiring to wreck African business firms. Masterly speech by Minister NWAPA punctured opposition arguments. Probably finest speech of entire session.

Cameroons

Cameroons members announced their intention remain "neutral" in Nigerian political disputes. They remaining nominal members Eastern NCNC but will not support all party directives and policies.

Relief from serious nature House session furnished in Western member motion to make nudity of Nigerian adults illegal. Debate provoked much humor and some heat. Latter came as result West members allegation in re primitiveness of Northern Region, where most nude people found in pagan areas. Vote never taken on bill as it lost in subsequent self-government motions.

House approved motion Government investigate establishment Nigeria Office to serve Nigerian Moslem pilgrims in Jidda or Mecca. Government promised take up matter with Saudi Arabia.

House also passed motion praying H.M. establish Order-in-Council giving Ministers more responsibility for actual operation departments in their portfolios. This progressive step toward Nigerianization and self-government largely lost sight of in subsequent fracas over motion re self-government in 1956.

NNCNC-Action Group Alliance Reported

As result events in House much attention being given in press to supposed inter-party cooperation between NCNC and AG. Obvious agreements exist re self-government in 1956, but ConGen doubtful if alliance can persist long or carry over to other issues, in view personalities involved, tribal differences, etc. NCNC efforts gain more power in Western Region bound cause Action Group uneasiness and strained alliance. Zik's strong personality cannot be helpful to cooperation.

Violence in Ikorodu

Several people injured and property damaged in violence this town, about forty miles from Lagos. Fight between chieftainship supporters Prince OKOYA and Prince LADEGA brought out knives, guns and sticks. Squabble is part of same chieftaincy dispute which continues break out sporadically in nearby Shagamu.

Lagos Town Council Asked Refrain from Controversial Rulings

Nigerian National Democratic Party, strong in old LTC, has asked new interim Council take no action on controversial ordinances and asked Lieutenant-Governor (West) not approve any such rulings. Party does not accept present council and wants them sit quietly until reformed Council instituted late this year.

Trial of

RESTRICTED
(Classification)

Trial of Brothers Orizu

Nwafor ORIZU and brother Joseph on trial for obtaining money fraudulently. Nwafor accused stealing £32,000 collected from potential private students U. S. schools. Also charge he lent money to several brothers from his African Council or American Education funds. Government case against Orizu carefully laid.

ECONOMIC

Directors of Liquidated Bank in Court

Emmanuel Adeleye OKUNMERI, Isaac Adebiyi OLULANDE and Joseph Adejumobi ALALADE charged on eleven counts false pretenses, falsification of accounts and theft. These men former Directors liquidated Afro-Seas Credit Bank. Failure of bank easily understood if these charges true. Typical of ills of many locally-owned banks.

£15,457,910 Development Expenditures Approved by House

March 25 sitting of House of Representatives approved big development budget. Among items approved were following: extension Apapa Wharf, £77,500; railway expansion, £1,980,000; Enugu colliery development, £260,000; establishment of cement factory, £2,000,000; communications expansion, £905,000; road development, £536,690 and urban water supply development, £320,250. Colonial Development Corporation to get loan totalling £2,000,000 under increased loan ceiling (formerly £1 million maximum).

African Development Corporation, Ltd., to Issue New Shares

As original £100,000 authorized shares of ADC fully paid up, company announces, it will issue £150,000 worth ordinary shares. Mazi Mbonu OJIKE also appointed Chairman for coming year. Bakery operations, soap production and produce handling to be company's main activities for next twelve months.

Erwin P. Keeler
American Consul General

RESTRICTED